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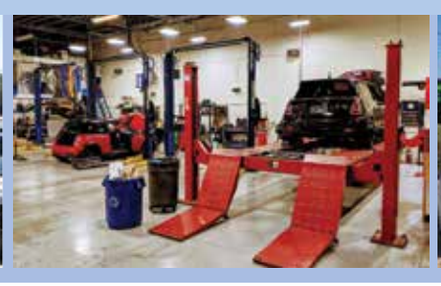

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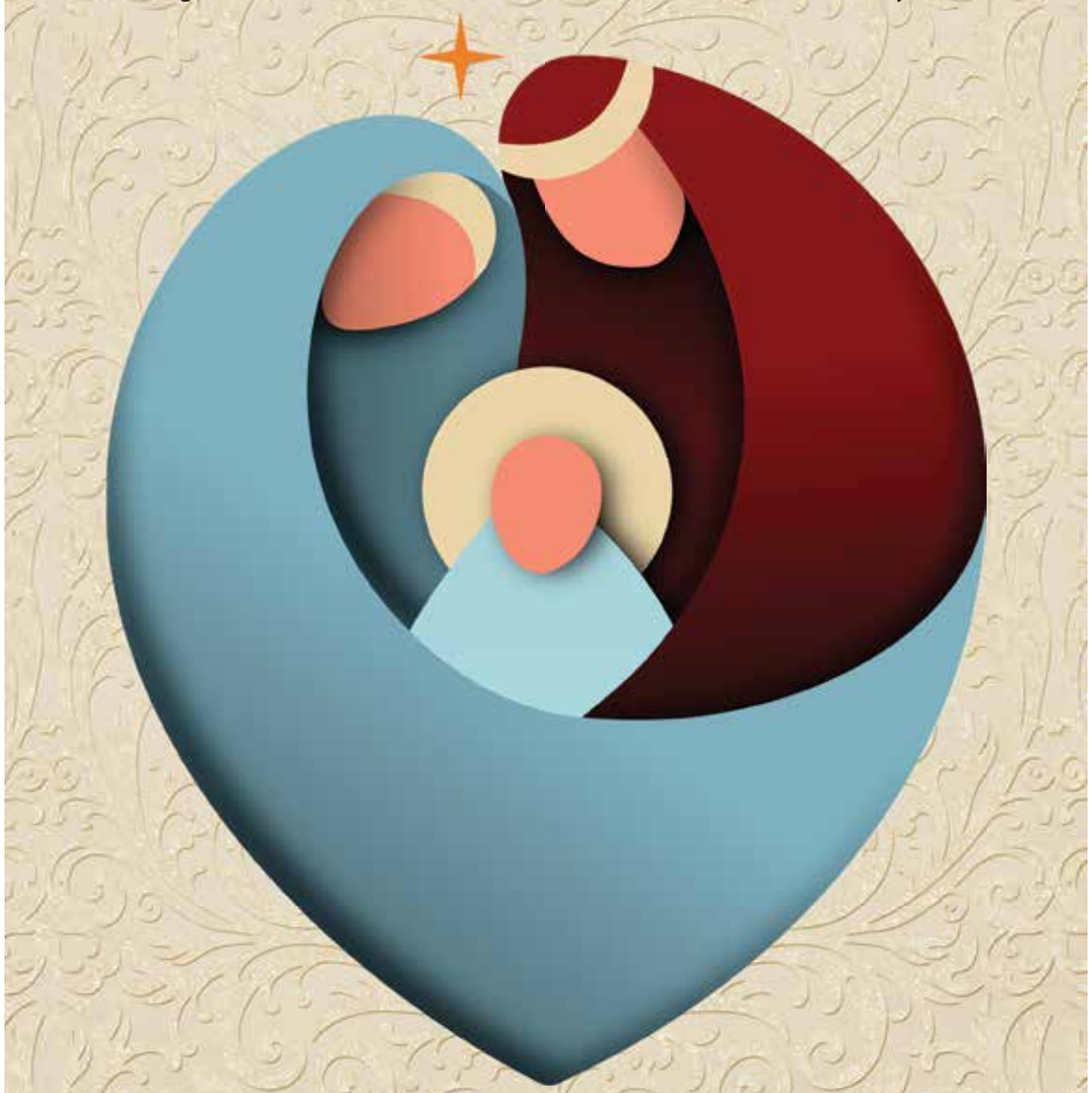
Vol 49 | Issue #6 November - December 2023

The Arizona BEEHIVE Magazine

Serving Arizona Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



PEACE

ON THE COVER

May peace be with you this Christmas Season.

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RECEIVING & GIVING LIGHT

Christmastime Opportunities for Service Abound for Members & Friends of the Church, Alike!

By Robin Finlinson

Mesa Temple Christmas Lights

How great it is to experience the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights, with their accompanying displays depicting the birth of Jesus Christ and prophesies regarding that extraordinary, holy event! Many patrons are certainly thinking ahead to November 24th at 5:00 pm, when the grounds will again burst into peaceful, yet powerful splendor, and are wondering what's new about them this year.

Stacey Farr, director of the entire visual and audio presentation, revealed to *The Arizona Beehive Magazine* what to look forward to seeing in this, her 12th and last year as its marvelously capable team leader.

The Nativity stable has been a Mesa icon for 30 years, but the wood is now decayed beyond repair. Figuring out a new design to replace such a beloved feature was "a struggle," in that there was a lot of prayer and fasting for guidance. Three people were each assigned to come up with a design. By the time they all met back with Sister Farr to decide which one it should be, her choice

Continued on pg. 5

Mesa Temple Christmas Lights Photos courtesy of Robin Finlinson

What's The Buzz?

I am involved in a few different organizations, the Church being the main one. In each, membership and activity are dwindling. We question in each group why this is so. Personally, I feel the reason is that our world in commotion is beating people so far down that they just want to spend their "free" time at home, safe and sound, with their doors locked, with their family or TV or game console, emerging only to earn an ever increasing difficult-to-pay-for living, or to accomplish modern day chores.

To me, success in any endeavor comes down to choice and decision. I can choose to engage or to disengage. By choosing to engage, I make decisions necessary to make such engagement effective and fulfilling. Regarding my Church participation, I choose to be active. I pondered my Church engagement as I watched our recent General Conference. Why in a world working so hard to convince humans that God is dead and humans are gods do I continue to participate? Because I choose to believe.

I choose to make covenants, to be a member, to fulfill callings, to serve because I choose to live my life as a human being who patterns my life after the mortal life Jesus Christ lived. Patterned after who He really is, not like who people think He is with their misguided interpretations of His life and character. I also am naive enough to think that if enough people lived this way, our world would be the best place, not just a "better" place.

I also choose to be concerned with what's in store for us after this mortal life ends. I am certainly interested in history and how science attempts to explain the universe. But those fields of study do not adequately answer the most pressing humankind questions: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going?

I also recognize the worldly conflicts posed by living the Gospel. In response I choose to stick with the fundamentals, the Doctrine of Christ: Faith, repentance, baptism, Gift of the Holy Ghost, endure to the end. That I can do, regardless of what the world dictates. The rest will eventually be sorted out.

What does all this have to do with publishing a small local LDS-focused magazine? Both burn the same fuel: Faith. Little miracles keep each issue printed and in your hands. These little miracles show me that faith in what I do to publish this thing allows me to continue to choose to believe in the magazine. And for that I am grateful. Thank you for reading!

Michael O'Brien
Publisher

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was firmly set in her mind. "And when we sat down and started the meeting," she says, "it was the most miraculous thing. Every heart there [including hers] turned and settled on this other design. When you see it, you will understand. It looks like it is of Bethlehem. It's simple. Humble." Countless hours of work have gone into sculpting and building such a sacred representation. Sister Farr adds, "When you see the walls, you will see labor of intense love." The new stable will still frame the beautiful Fontanini figurines.

As for the lights, the huge creative team mimics the plant life on the grounds with their original designs. They then construct it, and light it all up. The following are some of the fresh things to notice:

- More colors, more lights
- Barrel cactuses with purple flower lights. Zip ties have been left on, resembling thorns
- Plant parts made with ping pong balls
- Every palm tree along Main St. (not just every other one as before) will be lit up, thanks to 50 more palm fronds being built

Just across LeSueur Street, take a walk by the windows of the Mesa Temple Visitors Center for some visual treats: a three and a half feet tall silhouette of a Nativity scene, plus artwork by Mark Mabry. Step inside for several more Christmastime treasures, such as a new 12-feet tall Christmas tree decorated with the names of Christ and pictures of Him. Gaze at over 350 Nativity scenes. That's about 200 more than last year, thanks to one family's incredible donation.

Photos courtesy of Robin Finlinson
Light the World Giving Machine

Light the World Giving Machines

Arizona is again privileged to host a rather new tradition: the Light the World Giving Machines. They are repurposed vending machines that allow patrons to donate money to selected nonprofits so they can purchase items their clients will need. It's a genius innovation. Since The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints covers all operating costs, 100% of the donated money goes to the nonprofits to purchase and deliver the specific items patrons choose to give. Since 2017, the machines have raised over $22 million worldwide.

It isn't possible for the machines to be in every city on the globe, and they only return to places in which patrons support them with gusto. Bravo, Arizona, for your generosity!

Here's a fun behind-the-scenes story, showing how valued those donations are. Rachel Hanchett is the JustServe liaison between the East Valley (Gilbert) machines and the nonprofits represented in 2023. She says, "I was given the great honor of contacting the charity partners that were ultimately chosen to participate this year. And can I say…it was emotional. I know what a tremendous blessing this is to each of these agencies and how many lives it will change! On one phone call, the director had to hold the phone away from her mouth so she could scream because she was so excited! When they submitted their application they never imagined they would be accepted, and this was truly a dream come true."

Be sure to see the article on page 7 of this issue, detailing what items you'll be able to donate to this year's participating Arizona nonprofits, the machine locations, and other exciting information.

Continued on pg. 7

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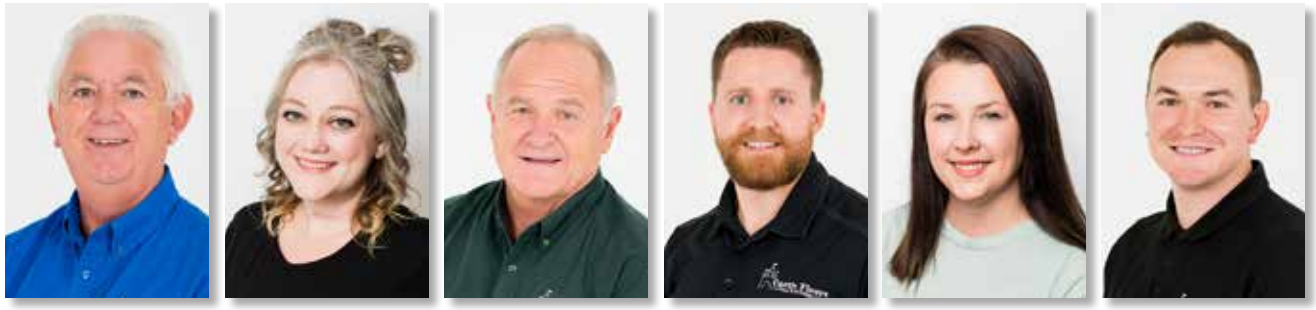

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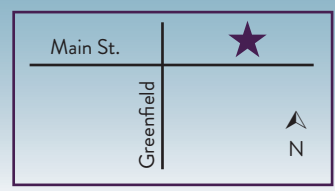

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Christmas Service Opportunities
Continued from pg. 5

Salvation Army's Angel Trees. **Photo courtesy of Nicki Young**

JustServe.com

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also encourages people to support the remarkable things other faith groups are doing to deliver care to God's children. That work moves along in countless ways. It's collaborative, rather than competitive.

For an example of that, take a look at the "About Us" page at justserve.org. One of several organizations on the Advisory Council is The Salvation Army, whose motto is "heart to God and hand to man." They seek to "love beyond" whatever condition a person is in—beyond homelessness, for example—and see the person. The Chandler location has volunteer opportunities posted at justserve.org that Captain Stephanie Philpot would love to tell you about.

"The Angel Tree program is a chance to put a smile on a child's face during Christmastime, especially when parents are having a little bit of a hard time—for any reason," she says. The Angel Tree will be covered with tags—each one representing a child (a little angel) to shop for. Volunteers help donors check out tags and check them back in when they're returned with purchased toys and other desired items. Donors, of course, and gift wrappers are also needed! These opportunities will be at the Chandler Fashion Center from mid-November through December 21st.

Captain Stephanie also tells of the holiday "Adopt a Family" program. "A perfect example right now," she says, "is a family with a daughter who is going through a couple of medical issues. We found a donor that is willing to take this family of 11, and they'll be getting them things for their entire family." This is an especially good project for businesses seeking ways to give in the community.

Perhaps you'd like to be a bell ringer for The Salvation Army! Sign up at RegisterToRing.com. Please remember them after the holidays have passed. They are helping people year-round.

An easy way to see which nonprofits, churches, etc. post volunteer needs near you at justserve.org is to click on "Organizations" at the top of the website. Scroll through that alphabetical listing from A-Z or Z-A. It shows how many projects each organization currently has posted. Click on a specific agency listed, then scroll to see all of its projects aggregated in one spot.

Enjoy as many of these giving opportunities as you can for an especially merry Christmas!

By Emily Jex Boyle

Scan this code to find a Giving Machine location near you!

Photo courtesy of Robin Finlinson

Lighting the World Giving Machines 2023

As an annual Christmas initiative of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Light the World is a global effort and invitation to be a light to others and follow the example of Jesus Christ. The Giving Machine campaign within the initiative arose in response to one question: "Can serving others be instant, fun, and memorable?"

What started in 2017 with just one large, refurbished red vending machine in Downtown Salt Lake City has grown into placing Giving Machines in cities around the world, capturing the attention of public officials, respected nonprofit organizations, business leaders, other faiths and the public.

In 2018, there were five Giving Machine locations in the world; in 2019, there were ten. The COVID-19 global pandemic paused the program in 2020, with the machines returning in 2021 to ten cities. The following year, 22 machines were established in permanent locations and eight mobile locations. Five of these locations were in Arizona.

In the last six Christmas seasons, donations made via the machines generated over $22 million in goods and services! Last year's program alone helped support local and global agencies by providing the following around the world:

More than 3.2 million healthy meals, and 13,000 boxes of fresh produce, will feed the hungry.

Nearly 32,000 children will receive school supplies and class instruction, including 2,900 scholarships for tuition and housing.

More than 516,000 children will be vaccinated against polio and measles.

More than 38,000 chickens, 25,000 ducks and 3,700 beehives will provide families with long-term nutrition and income potential.

This Christmas season, 24 permanent worldwide machines as well as 28 mobile locations have been placed. Seven of these locations are in Arizona. As one of the original machines, the Gilbert permanent machine will be back in the Gilbert Water Tower Plaza area. Machines will also be located in the following locations for a portion of the holiday season: Flagstaff, Prescott, West Valley area, Silver Creek area, Gila Valley area, and Tucson.

Here is just a sample of donation opportunities you'll find in the 2023 Giving Machines:

- Help a family install a brick latrine and septic tank for their home

Continued on pg. 21

Star Gazing for Christmas

Star light Star bright, First star I see tonight. I wish I may. I wish I might. Have the wish I wish tonight.

By Myra Larsen

As children, did you and your siblings lie on a quilt during summer evenings waiting for that first star to appear? What were your wishes? A special birthday gift? A trip to grandma's house? To be noticed by a certain classmate? Did you keep it a secret?

Remember the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star". There are five verses.

Perhaps the Wise Men were the first star gazers. Maybe not. However, their experience is the most well-known among Christian believers. Matthew 2: 1-12 tells their story in the New Testament.

Matthew's verses tell us that wise men were guided by a new star. How many years must they have prayed to see that event in their lifetimes. They were aware of revelations predicting the birth of Christ.

Their spiritually sensitive nature and wisdom indicate they were prophets on a divine mission. They weren't merely "wishing on a star" as the poem says. The new star led them to Bethlehem to worship the foretold Jesus and give Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We do not know how many men made the trip. We refer to them as Three Wise Men because they gave three gifts to the Christ Child.

Can you identify the Milky Way, Big Dipper, or Little Dipper? Children enjoy pointing them out. City lights make us wish for darkness to see them better. Is now a good season to find a dark sky and enjoy them as a family outing?

An online search revealed a site listing ten locations around Phoenix where it is possible to do a little star gazing on your own. https://www.explore.com/1088135/spots-for-star-gazing-in-phoenix/

The experience can be introspective, causing one to feel very tiny in this enormous universe. Just imagine all those bodies twinkling up to two and half million light-years away in our magnificent skies. Who can comprehend one light-year distance?

Winter fun:

Here's a Winter fun idea. Pick a site. A blanket. Hot cocoa in a thermos. Mugs. Sweet rolls. Costumes. Recording of Matthew's story. Which star might have been the one the Wise Men followed? You may include a journal or a video made on your phone to record this for your personal history. How many stars will you identify?

The ScripturePlus App

By Allison Beckert

Photo by Scripture+ Website

Between scripture, general conference talks, lesson plans, and valuable church discourse, daily study can be overwhelming. Few people are comfortable enough to know where to go and what to look for among all these resources. One particular app aims to make that easier. The ScripturePlus app provides a central place for members looking for a hub of all things valuable to their personal scripture study.

ScripturePlus has its roots and support through Book of Mormon Central. With special license from the Church, all the 2013 version of the Scriptures are available for search and reference through the app. The app is free to use and has a clear mission: to help users build their faith in Jesus Christ though accessible study aids. The app's social media team has been ambitiously growing, following the encouragement of leaders to share the Gospel with the world through the connective power of the internet. At its head is Jasmin Rappleye. Her voice and content are faith filled, descriptive, and approachable, representative of the mission of the app and its supporters.

The app is filled with features for everyone, whether you're someone who needs a quick positive experience with the Scriptures, to those who are enthusiastic students looking for diverse voices and extra material. I've enjoyed the daily scripture, which features a passage or two from the Come Follow Me block for the week, easily available on the home page. "Included are multiple versions of the text," details on the website explain, "formatting with sub-headings, red lettering to highlight words and names of deity, author/speaker identification, questions and answers, quotations from General Authorities and reliable scholars, charts, images, and Book of Mormon Central's signature KnoWhys. The app also includes hundreds of videos from some of the best faithful YouTube channels online."

Some of those YouTube voices include some very familiar channels: Don't Miss This, Unshaken, FollowHim, Line Upon Line, and others are available along with featured ScripturePlus directly linked on the home page of the app with latest episodes linked to the Come Follow Me block, available with a single click. Come for a moment or stay for hours. With all these resources, it's easy to find what you're looking for and learn more about whatever stands out in the weekly block.

ScripturePlus is especially valuable to those who don't have a lot of time to sit and study the scriptures. It's easy flow makes studying on the go more effective than snatching a verse here and there. The homepage is an effective hub for a quick spiritual break whenever needed.The ScripturePlus app is available on most smart phones and is free to download. For the desktop experience, check out Book of Mormon Central for the same resources though without the accessibility perks of the app.

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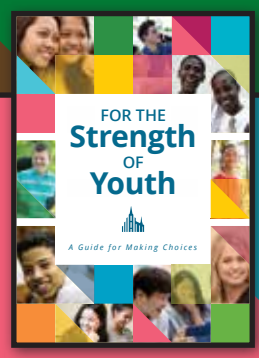

By Allison Beckert

Truth can be facts, but being honest and truthful can be the most valuable when it's shown in our choices and actions. Being faithful to promises, personal as well as professional ones, means standing up to the truth of the commitments that have been made. Dealing honestly with your fellow men is an act of Christlike love, is nuanced, and difficult to teach.

In this chapter of the For the Strength of Youth Guide, several of the scripture references are about learning, intelligence, and growing in knowledge. Truth can be hard to find in the world we live in. In both advertising and politics, the ability to make people trust what's shared is a commodity, and one that's paid for in millions of dollars. Youth are especially targeted by advertisers, though they and parents are constantly bombarded by all types of propaganda. Finding real truth takes discernment, which can be developed through the Spirit, scripture study, and faithful efforts to apply what you learn in real life.

The desire for truth is an eternal part of our souls. Having questions, having curiosity about answers to those questions, these aren't a weakness. Several general authorities have taught in recent years about how to feel about and address your own natural inquiring mind. It can be terrifying to have your child, friend, or church youth raise questions or doubts. It isn't a personal attack. This is an opportunity to build their independent testimony. Honesty matters. Be honest with yourself, your questioning youth, and help them build trust in those who love them, including Christ. There's support for everyone in the ongoing search for truth that will resonate and strengthen.

The same way we're endowed with curiosity and truth seeking, with the Light of Christ and the gift of the Holy Ghost we're also blessed with the ability to discern truth. People would call it a conscience, an inner compass, among other things. Whatever you call it, it requires calibration. This requires that we act on the truth we recognize. Set an example by investing time and energy in the things that lift the spirit, that you or your youth feel joy and confidence in. No one can force a principle or practice on someone, especially young people. The best practice is living the truths you know.

Photo by dima goroziya from Pixabay

While an easy answer to the question of what truth is would be answering with powerful doctrines, other truths are more difficult to pin down. As each of us goes through life, we accumulate sometimes hard to articulate truths. Like judgement in who is a worthy friend, whose advice to seek and take, and even what revelation looks like to each of us individually. We can't impart truths directly, especially the ones that matter. But we can teach our youth, as instructed by Elder John C. Pingree Jr. of the Seventy in the most recent conference to seek it, how to recognize it, and how to act on it.

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Why Turn the Hearts of the Children to the Fathers?

By Lynne Tolman

It is a wonderful, calm quiet reflective time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This celebration began many millennia ago when the Father of Our Spirits called us together and asked if we wanted to come to earth, a place to learn and to grow, to face challenges so that we could learn to be more loving and kind, like He was. Jesus Christ volunteered to place himself in a position to help us all learn to use our agency to make choices to help us return to live with our Father.

> AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE

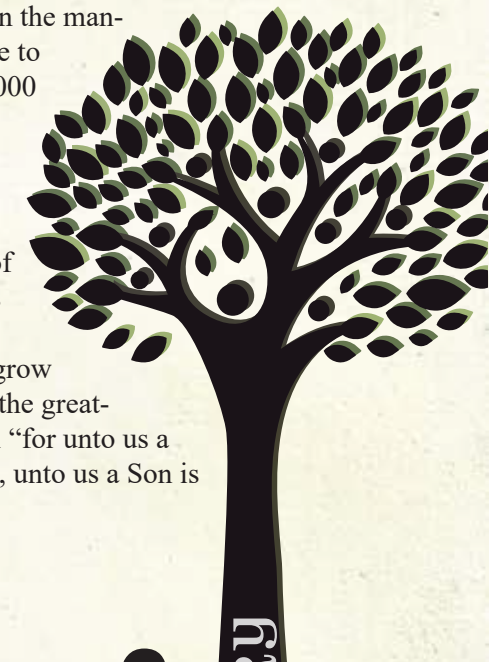
A condition of this plan was that we would forget our premortal existence and would need to be reminded of it by prophets. Some of us would never have the chance to know or understand these things. Jesus Christ came to earth and paid the price for all who wanted to return. Old Testament prophet Malachi proclaimed that Elijah would come to the earth to "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (Malachi 4:6)

Why turn the hearts of the children to the fathers? This is where Family History comes into play!

Time invested searching for and connecting our family members who have died gives each of us and them the opportunity to come to know and understand Jesus Christ and his gospel as it is taught both here and in the spirit world. We find family members and complete sacred ordinances in proxy for those who have previously lived, so they can take advantage of the gift of our Savior if they choose to, once their work is completed.

Family History is all about connecting us and our families to Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was born in a stable of humble birth to a mother who chose to be a handmaiden to the Lord, and to a step father who chose to support and sustain her. He was taught and trained under the hand of His earthly and Heavenly parents. He lived a life of love and service and showed us the way. He then took upon himself the sins of the world so that we as imperfect creatures could be forgiven and learn to come unto him. He was crucified and was resurrected on the third day. He paid this price for all of humanity. If He had not taken upon himself this heavy burden we would not know of the babe in the manger that came to earth over 2000 years ago.



This season of the year that reminds us of this precious Child, who grew as we grow and gave us the greatest gift of all "for unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given!"

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CELEBRATING WITH GUSTO PAPAGO WARD COMMEMORATES 140 YEARS

Photo Courtesy of Emily Boyle

Sisters from the Papago Ward Relief Society pose for a photo at the event. From left to right: Sally Nelson, Virginia Lorin, Christina Abavlos, Karen Bryant, Morningstar Scabby, and Niso Osif.

Photo Courtesy of Emily Boyle

Niso Osif, president of the Papago ward Relief Society, serves the Panana family at the event.

(No photo credit)

Papago Ward 1927: Some of those pictured are Sally Nelson, Virginia Loring, Christina Abavlos, Karen Bryant, Morningstar Scabby, Niso Osif.

By Emily Jex Boyle

Around 1875, Incarnacion Valenzuela of the Papago tribe in Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico married Sarah Carlos of the Salt River Pima Maricopa tribes. They lived here in the valley.

When traveling missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sought to communicate with native tribes in Arizona, Valenzuela was curious. Once missionaries learned Valenzuela spoke fluent Spanish as well as Pima and Papago languages, they asked if he might accompany them as interpreter, as language barriers impeded their message of the Book of Mormon and the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. Valenzuela consented, helping communicate their message to members of the area's tribes. In time, Valenzuela gained his own personal witness of the message he once helped share.

The Church website states, "Over 1,200 Papago, Pima, and Maricopa Indians in southern Arizona joined the Church in the 1880s, establishing a ward that later contributed to the building and dedication of the Mesa Arizona Temple." When the Papago ward was created in 1884, there were few Papagos in the area. According to history, the ward was given its name in honor of the interpreter, Incarnacion Valenzuela.

This past month, the Papago ward celebrated its upcoming 140th anniversary with gusto. On a sunny Saturday, a large fall festival opened to the public on the property surrounding the ward building located in the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. The parking lot filled to the brim and cars lined the street. Children squealed with delight on barrel rides behind a

four-wheeler. Those with either experienced or wishful green thumbs admired the well-tended gardens and orchard. Attendees also enjoyed delicious food, art and the animals on site, from goats and baby chicks to tortoises.

Through the years the buildings, trees and orchards on the property have changed, but the land and memories from history remain. When the current church building on the lot was rededicated, then President of the Church Gordon B. Hinckley honored the longevity of the ward as the "oldest, continuous Indian ward in the entire world." Hinckley's great-uncle Arza Hinckley labored as a missionary among the native tribes of Arizona, and was the first bishop of the Papago ward. For years a tree stood in front of the ward building planted by early members of the ward. In recent years a strong storm took it down.

In preparation for the celebration, women from the Papago ward rose early that morning. As the sun climbed they cooked food beneath the shade of mature trees. When asked about her first memories of this place, Pat Bapisto says, "I remember when I was five, I attended with my mom who was a convert. She would always take us to church. Mom was Piipaash (Maricopa). She spoke 3 languages, Piipaash, O'odham, and English. She loved to read and would teach in Relief Society and quilt. We lived in an adobe house just down the road. I remember sitting on the hard benches in the one room church building. In the summertime, the wind sometimes would blow the curtains with a cool breeze. I remember my head resting on my mom's lap."

Looking for peace? All welcome at Papago Ward church meetings. Brent Kellis helps manage the farm and gardens located on the property. "We want to make this a beautiful area where people will want to come and enjoy how peaceful this is and to make it a place where people are comfortable to enjoy the place, or harvest produce for their own use. It's not just for members of our church; it's for anyone who can benefit from this place."

For more information about the Papago Ward, see the essay on the American Indians under church history topics at www.churchofjesuschrist.org. Come visit the farm and gardens every Thursday and Saturday mornings, 7am-9am.

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All It Took Was One Mosquito!

Pete's Fish & Chips

Thrives as a Valley Treasure

By Katherine Ogden

When you think of a favorite longstanding valley eating establishment, Pete's Fish and Chips definitely comes to mind!

Pete's Fish and Chips is the creation of Peter McLane Grant, Jr. (Pete). While serving on a World War II PT boat in the South Pacific, he contracted malaria, along with rheumatic fever and dysentery. After his doctors in Indiana told him he would never fully recover unless he moved to a hot, dry climate, he moved to Phoenix, Arizona. "One little mosquito determined so much," says daughter Pat Foster. "It changed everything!" On Christmas day in 1946, he and his pregnant wife Ruth arrived in the valley with $900 in their pockets, pulling a house trailer.

One of the things Pete had enjoyed while traveling with Pro Am golfing tours in the British Open was visiting the fish and chips stands. On March 23rd, 1947, he opened his first "Chip House." He started out with a 6' X 8' wooden shack with no running water, by the side of the road. By the end of that same year, he had opened two more locations. The business continued to grow steadily, eventually employing all four of Pete's daughters at one time or another.

At the time of Pete's sudden tragic death in 1987, Kathy Adams was working with her father. It was at this point that her sister Pat Foster stepped in to help Kathy run the business. "Our dad was larger than life. It took two of us to fill his shoes," explains Pat. "We moved the office from Phoenix to Mesa. We still have our Dad's wooden desk here in this office," says Kathy.

The business remains a family affair. Both Kathy's and Pat's husbands manage two of the locations, with Kathy's two sons and daughter also working with them. "Fortunately for us, we weren't effected that much by the Covid 19 lockdown. We already had the drive-thru, pick-up and delivery options in place, so we were already set up for a pandemic!" says Pat, "And we've been trying to keep our prices down as much as possible, despite the supply shortages, gas prices and inflation in general. Our main customer complaint is that there aren't enough locations," continues Pat. "Our customers have requested new ones in Sun City, San Tan, Prescott and even Flagstaff!"

PETE'S is an All-American Tradition!

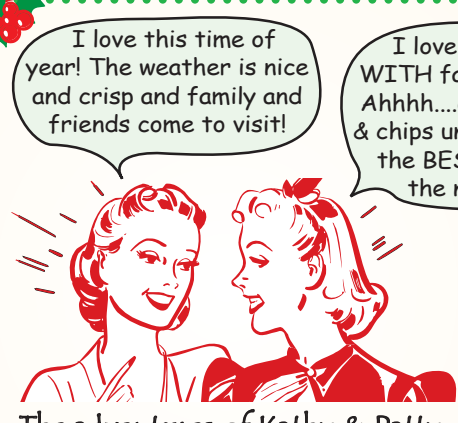
For true-blue Pete's fans, logo identified merchandise is available, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, beanies and visor hats. "All stores carry a limited supply of merchandise," says Kathy. "For the complete selection, you have to come down to the main office."

Pete's Fish and Chips has eight locations throughout the valley; located in Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Glendale and Tolleson. You can also find more information at petesfishandchips.com.

Pete and his first Chip House. Photo courtesy of Pat Foster

Photo courtesy of Pat Foster

Pete and his wife Ruby, arriving in Phoenix with their house trailer.



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RUSTY BOWERS

What Courage Looks Like

By Emily Jex Boyle

At a recent lunch meeting held by the Phoenix Chapter of the BYU Management Society, Rusty Bowers, an accomplished local artist and the former speaker of the state House of Representatives, shared insightful counsel to local professionals about making difficult decisions.

A longtime Arizona politician, Bowers has received attention in recent years for his testimony before Congress about refusing requests from the President to overturn the 2020 election. One of five individuals awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2022, Bowers also received the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2023, the second-highest civilian award in the United States. Upon introducing Bowers to attendees, the introducer explained that her own children recognize Bower's name and story because their mother wants them to know, "what courage looks like."

During his speech, Bowers acknowledged, "Life comes at you. It doesn't wait." Hard decisions come often without much warning. Such decisions do not come in little packages nor do they come with time for you to decide. Preparing for moments of difficult decision, Bowers affirmed, comes long before.

Bowers candidly shared at the event a few key experiences in which he faced his own difficult choices including a dangerous hostage situation, as well as his family's heartbreaking struggle to support their fatally ill daughter in the midst of the 2020 election turmoil. The Bowers' daughter, Kacey, passed away in January 2021.

Often, in his mind, Bowers admits to traveling often back to an image of a young 2 ½ year old Rusty Bowers riding in his family's pickup truck around Chino Valley in Northern Arizona in overalls and sneakers, asleep with a lollipop in one hand and a graham cracker in the other. Little did he know what life would come at him.

Bowers acknowledges the reality of life's mystery, full of the unknowns, as well as his foundational faith in God and a divine plan. "We don't know when difficult decisions will come,"he advised, "but we can be at peace as we prepare." His counsel for preparing for hard decisions was simple. First, beginning each day with a morning devotional, a time to mindfully prepare for the day. Second, get through today. Third, have principles to guide you. Fourth, when the difficult decisions come, trust in yourself and as Bowers put it, "try to be at peace afterwards."

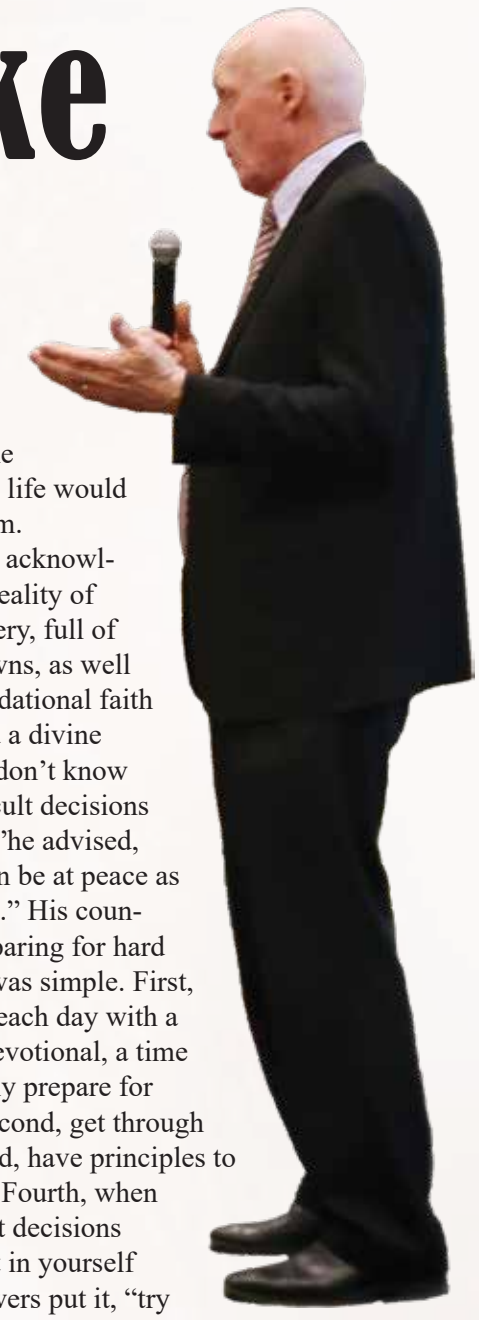

Photo Courtesy of Chris Spears

During his speech Bowers acknowledged, "Life comes at you. It doesn't wait."

When asked his opinion about collaborating with others of opposed and contrary principles, he responded, asking, "What is the principle of humanity?" He further affirmed the truth that oneness is not sameness, that it is okay to disagree with others and at the same time, still like one another.

BYU Management Society is a group of business professionals dedicated to growing moral and ethical leaders in our community. According to its website, the society shares a "mutual respect for high moral and ethical standards as a code of business conduct and integrity." The local chapter not only delivers programs but awards scholarships to Arizona students attending ASU, BYU, BYU Idaho and BYU Pathway. The next event on November 30 will feature Rob Gardner. The public is invited to attend events.

For more information visit https://byums.byu.edu/us-phoenix/.

Photo Courtesy of Chris Spears

Attendees at a recent lunch meeting held at EVIT in Mesa listen to Rusty Bowers while enjoying a delicious meal prepared and served by the culinary arts students.

By Robin Finlinson

Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings in the manual titled *Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families,* scheduled for November and December, 2023, comprising the book of Revelation in the New Testament.

Living Through the Backstory

Thanks to numerous prophecies, including those that establish the theme of the book of Revelation, the Earth's happy conclusion was revealed millennia ago: the Lord and those on His side in the "valley of decision" will be victorious (Joel 3:14). At some point, people will finally live through the relatively short backstory exposing Earth's final years before the Second Coming of the Savior Jesus Christ—showing in real time specifically *how* the world gets to the point of both "perpetual desolations" (Jeremiah 25) and the mind-blowing, miraculous aid the Lord will deploy.

The oft-quoted warning given in April, 2018 by current prophet President Russell M. Nelson reveals that we'll be living through the backstory—soon.

He declared that "in coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost."

Without studying the words of previous prophets, those of a current prophet can only be partially understood. Jesus often asked those who argued about His ways, "Have ye not read…?" (Matt. 21:42; 22:31; Luke 6:2-3).

We need to be aware that the wicked "son of perdition" will entice and deceive many souls (Joseph Smith Translation 2 Thess. 2:2-3; 1 Nephi 14).

Specific warnings by the prophets Isaiah, Daniel, John the Revelator, Moroni and many others provide even more context to the recent declaration with pieces to a mosaic of understanding. The son of perdition will also rule oppressively. Some prophets foresaw "the heavens shaken and the earth removed." Yes, earthquakes will change the placement of continents (Doctrine & Covenants 133:24). But that phrase was "a Jewish figure of speech suggesting a time of great calamity and disaster. Such would be the fall of Babylon. The whole political climate and circumstances of the world would be shaken" (Old Testament Student Manual: Isaiah 13:13). Be sure to read Ether 8:18-25; Daniel 7-8;11-12; Rev. chapters 13;16-17; and 19:19-20.

Let's turn to what President Nelson said just before his warning. "Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will perform some of His mightiest works between now and when He comes again. We will see miraculous indications that God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, preside over this Church in majesty and glory."

The Prophet Jeremiah said of the following miracle that it will be so extraordinary, people will think of the parting of the Red Sea for the children of Israel's escape as comparatively minor (Jer. 16:14-15).

With such turmoil and persecution, the Saints will need backup. God knew this time would come. The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel will return en masse as a distinct group from the north—from wherever the Lord has had them hidden. He will cause that a "highway shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep," over which they will travel. They'll come temporarily to the land of Zion, the land of "a great eagle," to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and fortifying ordinances and covenants of the temple from the small remnant of the tribe of Ephraim that had already been led here. The "treasures" they'll bring will include the historical and spiritual records they've kept (1 Chron. 5:1-2; Isaiah 11:15-16; 35:8-10; Rev. 12:14; D&C 133:26-35).

The Ten Tribes will be nourished physically and spiritually for a while. Then 12 thousand of each of the tribes of gathered Israel—144,000—will be blessed, ordained, and endowed with knowledge and power, metaphorically "sealed" upon their heads. They'll be sent throughout the world to bolster those whose hearts are failing with fear because they don't know of Jesus Christ. With swords of truth they'll cut away at devilish doctrines, freeing people from their clutch. They'll be protected from the plagues targeting the rebellious (Isa. 35:3-4; Rev. 7:3-8).

In 1831, speaking of his own day, the prophet Joseph Smith informed conference attendees that John the Revelator was then "among the Ten Tribes of Israel who had been led away by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, to prepare them for their return from their long dispersion" (D&C Student Manual, Section 7).

As for the timing of their return, John taught in Revelation 7 that the sealing of the 144,000 will occur during the "sixth seal," or sixth thousand-year period of the Earth's temporary, telestial form of existence. Considering that the sixth one began around the year 1000 AD, we're now living near the end of it. The restoration of Israel's people to each other will help them brace, during a momentary reprieve, for all the forces of evil to briefly fight against them at the beginning of the seventh seal (Rev. 8-9; 20:1-10; D&C 77:6).

When it looks hopeless, more assistance will come and win the battle for them: The Holy One of Israel, whose name of "Jesus" means "God is help." With Him will come angelic multitudes from ages past. Finally, Israel will be completely gathered, victorious and unencumbered in offering the blessings of the patriarchs to every lineage and child of God during the rest (meaning both the remainder and the tranquility) of the seventh seal (Gen. 28:14).

See also 3 Nephi 15:12-16:3; Matt. 24; Ezekiel 37-38; D&C 45; 88; The Articles of Faith 1:10; 2 Esdras 11-13 in the Apocrypha. Find the Student Manuals for the Old Testament and Doctrine and Covenants at churchofjesuschrist.org.

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SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Mesa Temple Family Search Center

By Allison Beckert

The Mesa Temple is a beautiful landmark and historic spiritual center for Arizona. With its recent renovation came the reinvention of the popular visitors' center. One of the most valuable additions to member and community resources is now part of the draw of the visitors' center. The Family Search Center has diverse resources and programming for the community, no matter the size or scope of your project or group.

The family search center is located within the Mesa Temple Visitors Center, on the corner of E. Main Street and N. Lesueur, just west of the Mesa Temple. You can find everything you need for doing family history projects up the stairs and to the right. The center has computers available for research groups and classes on family history with advance scheduling. Also available are multiple methods to preserve documents, pictures, and memories – including tools to digitize memories and material like cassette tapes, floppy disks, and whole books of family photos. These tools and the others available are on a first-come first-serve basis and must be reserved if a specific one is needed.

The mission of the family search center is to bring visitors closer to Christ. Its staff and volunteers know the converting and strengthening power that comes from participating in the Gathering of Israel. Hearts can be touched, and minds opened when the powerful touch of the spirit of Elijah turns people toward their ancestors and their posterity.

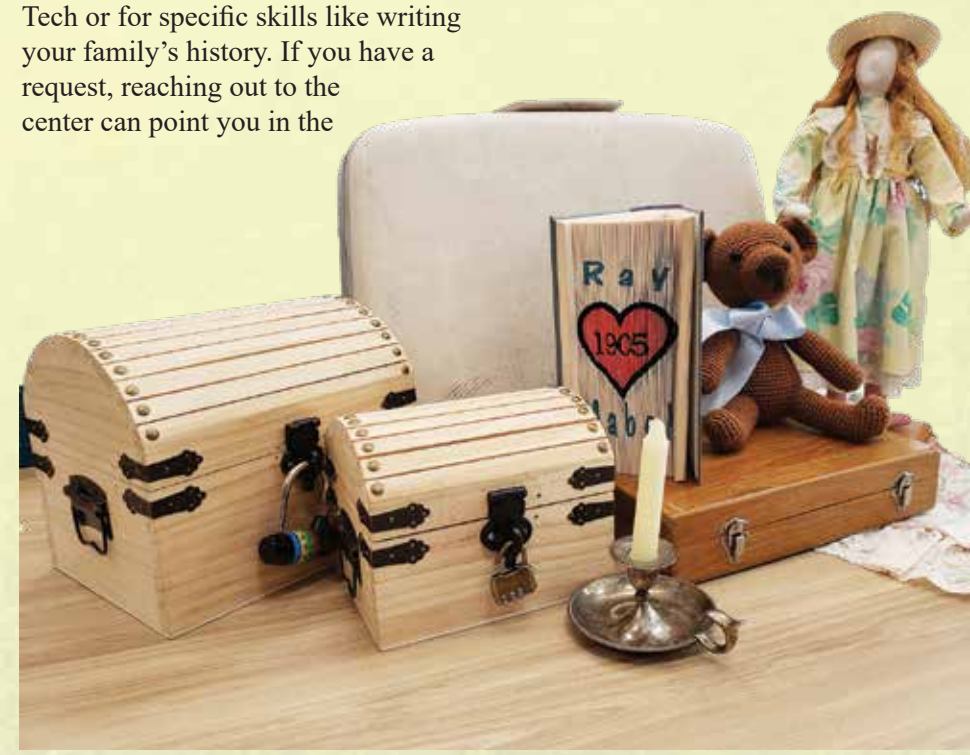
Some weeks ago my family arranged to participate in one of the programs there, an Escape Room experience both creative and surprisingly immersive. Called Grandmas Attic, groups work to solve puzzles, find clues, and discover the hiding place of a long-lost family heirloom. Our group had 3 generations of our family participating, and there was something for everyone. The youngest learned about how things were done in the past, while young adults or adult groups would find the puzzles engaging and the clues challenging. It was created with youth in mind, and those who have solved the mystery in Grandmas Attic have come away with an uplifting and inspiring experience.

The center is open to the public, and the resources are first come first serve. If you have a group to bring, you can reserve one of the classrooms or several of the computers. The center offers courses and events, which can be found online. Some courses that have been offered are tutorials on technology use - from the scanners and tools to effectively saving and organizing files. Longer courses can offer more for those interested in multi-day learning, whether linked with events like RootsTech or for specific skills like writing your family's history. If you have a request, reaching out to the center can point you in the right direction for resources, courses, or experts who are working in the area you're interested in.

The Visitors Center is open from 10am – 9pm 7 days a week. To reserve equipment, or space for a group, or sign up for classes, call the Visitors Center at 480-964-7164. A schedule of upcoming and current classes can be found online at https://mesatemple.org/classes/.

Family Search Center entrance. Photo by Allison Beckert

Public research computers. Photo by Allison Beckert



Grandma's Attic escape room props. Photo by Allison Beckert

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Career Fair Presented by Mesa Public Schools and the Mesa Welcome Center

By Barbie VonCott

A very successful Career Fair recently took place, promoting job opportunities and resources for the community. Held at the Inter Stake Center in Mesa, all ages and skill experiences were welcome. A current resume and professional attire were encouraged. Over one hundred and twenty people attended the event, seeking employment.

Twelve booths were in place for job seekers to meet potential employers. Those that participated were Mesa Public Schools, Jobing.com, Boeing, Arizona@Work, Compudopt, Metro Fire Equipment, BMO, LDS Employment Center, Marriott, Poder Latinx, Southwest Key Programs, and The Literacy Lab. Some of the companies represented also provided on-the-job training. Many of these organizations eagerly return to this annual event.

Full-time missionaries were also on-site to assist the recruiters with booth set up and whatever else was needed.

Reyna Lopez, owner of JJ Beauty Institute, a local beauty school in Mesa, was a great supporter of the event. Her team of students and instructors provided free haircuts for all job seekers in an effort to help them feel better prepared and more confident when interviewing for work. Lopez is a big believer in community service, so she instills it in her students training.

Applicants of all ages, from recent high school graduates to individuals approaching the age of retirement, attended the event hoping to find the right employment opportunity. The fair was also an outreach program and an opportunity for many minorities in the community.

Positive feedback was received from both the attendees and participating recruiters.

It is important to note that Mesa Public Schools is the largest school district in the state. There are currently fifty-six thousand students who attend district campuses. This event was organized by three Mesa Public School employees that comprise the community outreach and engagement team.

Photo courtesy of Tania Ritko

Nina Allred is the team's supervisor. Born in Peru, Allred came to America where she attended and later graduated from Brigham Young University in Provo.

Dinorah Graham is the director of the Mesa Welcome Center for Immigrants, which sponsored by the Church. Born in Guatemala, Graham came to America where she graduated from Brigham Young University in social work.

Tania Ritko works together with Graham and Allred on the Mesa Public School Engagement Team. She also was the on-site photographer for this event. Originally from Mexico, Ritko came

Continued on pg. 21

Employment Opportunities
Continued from pg. 20

to the United States where she continued her post-secondary education at Mesa Community College.

This dynamic group of women conduct three annual programs: a Health and Wellness Fair in February, an Education Fair in July, and the Career & Employment Fair in September. All three events are guided by Mesa Public School's promise to know every student by name and serve them by strength and need, so they can graduate ready for college, career, and community. Each of the three works hard every year to bring the community a variety of much-needed resources and information.

The Inter Stake Center conducts a church-sponsored program to help immigrants every Tuesday where Church volunteers gather to teach English language classes at multiple proficiency levels. Once a month they also hold cultural adaptation classes. Allred started visiting the center years ago to talk to families about American education system and how it differs from the system in Latin America.

Photo courtesy of Tania Ritko

Light The World Giving Machines
Continued from pg. 7

- Supply a security camera system for a household escaping domestic violence
- Donate flannel shirts, hoodies and more to keep those experiencing homelessness warm at night
- Help foster children start school fresh with socks and other personal items
- Buy goats and chickens, helping families nourish themselves, cultivate income and learn business skills
- Help teens connect with life through various "unplugged" activities

Sharon Eubank, director of Humanitarian Services for the Church, said, "Not a single person could be cared for without each Giving Machine participant. Their loving and unselfish gifts are miraculous. As a Church, we are blessed to sponsor this inspired initiative and extend our sincere gratitude to all who make it happen. I cannot think of a greater gift we could offer others than to feed, clothe, educate, and shelter our brothers and sisters in need. It is what our Savior Jesus Christ did and what He asks us to do."

Wondering when and where the Giving Machines will be in a city near you? Scan the QR code found on this article, or visit http://www.arizonagivingmachines.org/

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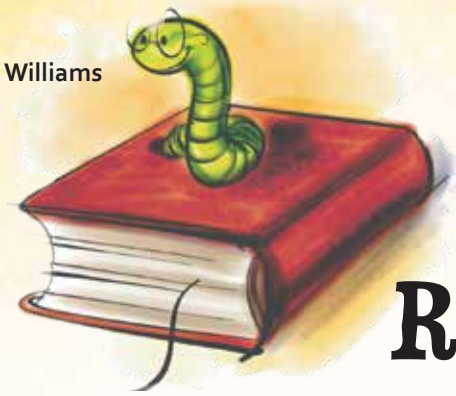
By Cindy R. Williams



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

Baby Bear's Turn

A New Twist on Goldilocks and the Three Bears

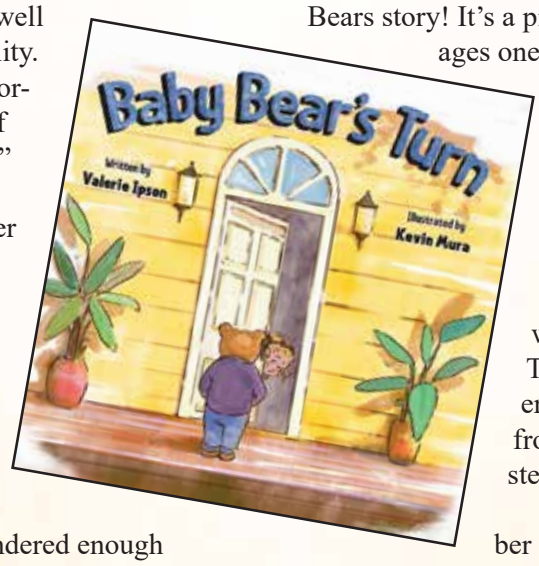
Valerie Ipson Willcox, Mesa, AZ, is the author of a new children's book, *Baby Bear's Turn* —a remake of the classic *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, from the viewpoint of Baby Bear.

Her children inspire Ipson. "I wrote several children's stories when they were little. I'm finally bringing them to life with the help of an amazing illustrator.

Photo by Carl Schultz

Author Valerie Ipson Willcox

"Chilean illustrator Kevin Mura is easy to work with and has a way of imagining the story scenes better than I can myself. When you see the image of Baby Bear standing on the doorstep of Goldilocks's looming house, you feel his boldness as well as his vulnerability. It's my very favorite illustration of the whole book," exclaims Ipson.



Ipson says her first epiphany came from the story idea itself. "The original tale leaves us with absolutely no resolution. 'Really? Had no one ever wondered enough about what happened next to write that story?' So, I did.

"My second epiphany was when I decided to rework the story for publication. It ended with Goldilocks showing up again at the bears' house, but I realized it needed more. Now, the sweet, extended ending is so much more satisfying. It makes me happy!" Ipson continues.

"What can be more fun than a story about what happens when Baby Bear goes to Goldilocks' house? Baby Bear is my favorite character. I think most of us are like him and will relate to his predicament."

Ipson's favorite lines from the book are: "Baby Bear's face reddened which is barely possible for a bear." And "Your room is very yellow, words only Baby Bear could think to say."

Ipson says, "Baby Bear is for anyone who has ever read the Three Bears story! It's a picture book for ages one to seven."

Giving advise for writing a book, Ipson says, "Just begin! Nothing happens unless you first get words on the page. Then join a writer's group and learn from others the next steps."

Ipson is a member of ANWA—American Night Writers Association—a writer's group for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Ipson's books are on Amazon. Contact her at ValerieIpson.com.

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JUSTSERVE

Painting Preserves Cherished Memory

By Lin Sue Flood

Mary Alice Warsco could no longer remember how to dress herself, make coffee or even what she ate for lunch. Dementia made day-to-day tasks too confusing. But when reminiscing about her childhood farm in Michigan, the 92-year-old had perfect clarity.

During a recent visit with her Hospice of the Valley nurse, Emily Irvine, she shared in vivid detail a family hardship from long ago. One summer when she was just a young girl, her father and brother were seriously injured in a car accident and unable to harvest their fields of ripened crops. Suddenly, Mary and her mother heard a distant rumble, growing ever louder. They raced to the front porch to discover a long line of tractors slowly making their way toward them.

"I had never seen so many tractors in my whole life," Mary recalled.

The small town had banded together to do the harvesting. Mary and her father were so overcome with gratitude that they sat on the porch and wept as the kind neighbors worked their fields. In a matter of hours, they finished the job and returned to their own farms.

"I instantly pictured in my head what this memory might have looked like for her," said Emily. "And I thought — a painting! So I reached out to our volunteer department and they found an amazing Hospice of the Valley volunteer to preserve this special memory on canvas."

The eager artist was Mandy Richards, a Scottsdale resident who loves volunteering her time to visit patients and families. "I was so excited and couldn't wait to get started!" she exclaimed. "One of my favorite things about art is how it evokes a feeling. I was honored to create a way for Mary to visualize this touching memory."

The artwork was framed with a descriptive label on the back so future generations would know the story behind it. When Emily and Mandy went to Mary's Peoria home to present the painting, they saw her eyes light up… and then shine with tears of remembrance. To everyone's delight, she immediately began telling the story again, this time holding Mandy's precious painting tightly in her arms.

"It felt almost sacred," Emily reflected. "Mary had lost so much of her memory, but she still had that one. These are the moments that make life and work very rewarding."

Photo courtesy of Hospice of the Valley

Mandy's painting depicts the kindness of neighbors on their way to Mary's family farm to save their summer crops.

Lin Sue Flood is director of Community Engagement at Hospice of the Valley. Interested in volunteering with Hospice of the Valley? It may be one of the most rewarding things you ever do! Visit hov.org/volunteer or call (602) 636-6336.

Photo courtesy of Hospice of the Valley

Hospice of the Valley patient Mary Alice Warsco (seated) holding her beloved painting. Behind her are (from left) volunteer coordinator Pat Felton, Mary's son and daughter-in-law John and Kimberlee Warsco, nurse Emily Irvine and volunteer Mandy Richards.

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- Temple websites can be found by searching churchofjesuschrist.org/temples

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